



## Trust Statement – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020

**Yesterday's statement from Ron Martin in the Evening Echo was welcome.**

After the departure of players, lack of signings, salary and HMRC issues the Trust have been as dismayed as (presumably) all Southend Fans, at the situation that the Club finds itself in.



We have resisted some calls to put out a statement previously, because, frankly we had nothing to say that wasn't already known.

We have however been trying to glean from reliable sources, as much information as possible, to determine whether we could take any action which would be useful to the club, including financially. We did make an offer to help a few weeks back - this was not acknowledged.

Specifically referring to Ron's statement, it's difficult to know where to start:

Why make it public knowledge that Sol would be able to sign 5-7 players in January, if apparently 'There is a limited pool of players in this window,'

'Sol Campbell has been brave in giving our young players an opportunity.'.....what else could he have done?

The Chairman has run this club for 20 years, any management, administrative or financial issues are directly under his control. The reminder that 'The Parent Company' is investing 1.5 Million this season is presumably proof that he believes Fossetts Farm and the Stadium development are still going to lead to a Credit rather than a Debit and that he hasn't abandoned all hope yet. This is not how most supporters are understanding the current situation.

The Trust has said before ..... the lack of CEO continues to drive our club backwards. Until the Chairman recognises this (and does something about it) it's difficult to see how we move forward.

The Trust has a meeting pencilled with Ron for next week and will make a further statement, if appropriate, after that.